

APPENDIX No. 6.

ANNUAL REPORT OF "A" TROOP, CAVALRY SCHOOL CORPS AND SCHOOL OF CAVALRY.

CITADEL, QUEBEC, 1st December, 1884.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my first Annual Report for the information of the Major General Commanding, and have divided it into the following heads :—

Cavalry School Corps ;
School of Cavalry ;
Cavalry Horses ;
Cavalry Inspections.

In accordance with orders received from Headquarters, dated 8th January, 1884, I proceeded, without delay, to form a permanent Troop of Cavalry, which, while performing its own regular duties, would also act as a Military School of Instruction to this special arm of the Service ; besides supplying first-class Drill Instructors to any Corps that may wish to make use of their service, during the period of the Annual Drill. I commenced by the appointment of a Sergeant-Major, from the 4th Dragoon Guards, and two Sergeant Instructors. One of these came from the 7th Dragoon Guards and the other from the 15th King's Hussars. All three Non-Commissioned Officers, in their respective regiments, are in possession of very high testimonials from their Commanding Officers, and also from the General Officer Commanding the Cavalry Brigade at Aldershot, who said "they were about the smartest and best Drill Instructors there."

The remaining men of the Troop I recruited one-half in Ontario, and of the other, in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces—no difficulty whatever being experienced in obtaining recruits, three times the number offering that I could accept—with this excellent result, that I was able to select a very superior class of young men, and as fine material to make good Cavalrymen of as I ever saw.

The total average of the Troop on joining being as follows :—

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Age..... | 21 years 5½ months. |
| Height..... | 5 feet 7½ inches. |
| Weight..... | 10 stone 13 lbs. |
| Chest measurement..... | 36 inches. |

The trades were represented as follows in the Corps :—

Soldiers, 4 ; grooms, 6 ; farmers, 5 ; laborers, 5 ; printers, 4 ; clerks, 3 ; painters, 2 ; students, 2 ; plasterer, 1 ; glass stainer, 1 ; land surveyor, 1 ; book-keeper, 1 ; linen finisher, 1 ; bridge builder, 1 ; stonecutter, 1 ; telegrapher, 1 ; gentleman, 1.

The Troop has been moved twice, viz., to Point Lévis on the 15th May, and the return to the Citadel on the 30th October. This was rendered necessary on account of a portion of the quarters in the Citadel being used in summer as a residence for His Excellency the Governor General ; and while it caused a heavy strain on the zeal and energy of all ranks to perform the necessary routine work of a Regiment, with such a very limited number of men, still, thanks to the universal good behavior, which has been a special feature in this Corps from its organization, it was made possible for me to continue the course of instructions throughout the whole summer without any perceptible inconvenience, and supply Drill Instructors to the 5th Provisional Regiment of Cavalry at Standstead, P.Q. ; the 8th Princess Louise's New Brunswick Regiment at Shediac ; and the "Princess Louise Dragoon Guards" in Ottawa.

The Point Lévis Camp, known as the Royal Engineer Huts, is not only the most charming and healthy of sites, but the most perfect summer Cavalry Camp in the Dominion, and is complete in every possible requirement, having Officers quarters and mess, Sergeants' mess, canteen, cook-houses, orderly room, lecture room, guard room and cells, magazine, Officer's stables, hospital, dead house, Troop stables, forge, Quartermaster's stores, married men's quarters, swimming pond, target ranges, manège theatre, and in fact everything necessary to the convenience of a Cavalry Camp, while the whole of the surrounding country abounds with roads, streams, bridges, railways, villages, woods, watering places, hills, marshes and position, all necessary to instruct Cavalry in the very important duties of Outpost, Reconnaissance and Patrol work, which modern warfare points out as more than ever to be the special rôle of Cavalry.

If it be considered necessary to open a School of Cavalry in Ontario it will be desirable to form another small Troop of 40 men, or allow the strength of the present Troop to be increased by that number of men, no more horses, however, than what is provided for by the present R. and O. Mil., viz. (30) thirty, are necessary, as this number can provide all the riding instruction at both Schools. To explain why it is necessary to have an increased number of men, I annex a Parade State to show how the 40 men at present on the permanent strength of "A" Troop are occupied:—

| | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|---------|
| 1 | Sergeant-Major, also Riding Instructor. | | | |
| 2 | Sergeant Instructors, also Quartermaster-Sergeant, Pay Sergeant, Instructor of Musketry, Fencing Instructor. | | | |
| 2 | Sergeants, alternate weeks, Orderly Sergeants. | | | |
| 2 | Corporals | do | Orderly Corporals, and care of 1 horse. | |
| 13 | Privates | do | do | 13 do |
| 2 | Trumpeters | do | Orderly Trumpeters | do 5 do |
| 2 | Privates | do | (Officers' horses) | do 5 do |
| 2 | do | Servants to permanent Officers. | | |
| 2 | do | do attached Officers. | | |
| 1 | do | Hospital Orderly. | | |
| 1 | do | Quartermaster's stores. | | |
| 1 | do | Troop Cook. | | |
| 1 | do | to assist Cook cut firewood and draw water, &c. | | |
| 1 | do | Stableman by day. | | |
| 1 | do | Stable piquet by night, and being out of bed all night, it requires him to rest next day, and another | | |
| 1 | do | is required for next night. | | |
| 1 | do | Officers' Mess. | | |
| 1 | do | Orderly Room Clerk. | | |
| 1 | do | Postman and office fatigue work. | | |
| 2 | do | Only left for all casualties in hospital, guard-room, prisoners or general fatigue work. | | |

Total, 40 N.-C. Officers and men.

The Corps is still, I regret to say, without proper saddlery, valises or carbines, but I hope to receive these very necessary articles of equipment this year. Fortunately, however, no actual inconvenience has been experienced, owing to the kindness of Lieut.-Col. Forsyth, Commanding the Queen's Own Canadian Hussars, and Lieut.-Col. Cotton, Commandant of "A" Battery, who sent me a sufficient number of these articles, so that in the School of Cavalry I have been able to follow out the Syllabus of Instruction as published in General Orders (20), dated Ottawa, 16th October, 1884.

I am proud to be able to place on record that, at my Monthly Muster Parade this morning, all ranks were present, the "Parade State" showing a total of 62 Officers, N.-C. Officers and men, with 20 horses. I had not a single sick man or sick horse, no prisoners and no defaulters—no better criterion of the good discipline existing than the positive absence of crime and sickness.

The annual course of Musketry was duly performed. I annex a complete Target Practice Return, showing a very satisfactory exhibit, it is marked ' .

I recommend strongly that the new Cavalry Martini-Henri carbine be supplied, in the place of the present obsolete Snider, which is useless at anything over 400 yards, whereas the Martini carbine is sighted up to 1,750 yards, and will carry a bullet 3,760 yards. With such a weapon in their hands Cavalry need never fear to approach Infantry.

School of Cavalry.

No less than 7 Officers, and 30 N.C. Officers and men have already taken advantage of short-courses of instruction at the School of Cavalry; and several more have applied and been granted permission to join on the commencement of the next term in January.

So far the following certificates have been granted, viz:—

| <i>1st Class.</i> | | <i>2nd Class.</i> | |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| | Grade. | | Grade. |
| One Officer | A | One Officer..... | A |
| Three Sergeants | B | One Sergeant..... | B |
| Two Corporals | B | One L. Corporal | B |
| One L. Corporal | B | One Private | B |

Special Class.

Three Officers 2nd Class.

The attached Officers remaining in the School are now undergoing their examinations, and the progress made by all is eminently satisfactory.

Of the N.-C. Officers attached, one has received permission from Headquarters to remain for a "long course," and from among the men I have selected nine, who have enlisted in the permanent Troop for three years, and filled up all existing vacancies.

Reconnaissance reports and Military road sketches of all the roads in the neighborhood of Quebec and Point Lévis for many miles have been made, one being particularly well made by an excellent attached Officer, Capt. Fages, 9th Battalion, " Voltigeurs de Québec."

Horses.

I have experienced some difficulty in obtaining the class of horse required for Cavalry work at anything like a moderate price. A steady search through the Province of Quebec failed to give me the number required at the price. I was, therefore, obliged to send to Ontario, where I purchased a very fine lot of young, well-bred horses, and they are turning out excellent chargers, the average age and height being as follows:—

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Age..... | 4 years and 9 months. |
| Height..... | 15 hands 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. |

It might be well if farmers, generally, would turn their attention more to this profitable employment, as the demand, both in England and the United States, for a class of riding horse capable of carrying 225 pounds on his back and performing twenty-five miles in a day of seven or eight hours, is increasing, and commands a high price.

Cavalry Inspections.

The only inspection made by me during this year was that of the 5th Provisional Regiment of Cavalry, under the command of a very excellent Cavalry Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Taylor. This regiment performed the annual drill in Camp at Stanstead

Plain, and were inspected on the 3rd July. With an increased number of days' drill performed *annually*—in place of only every second year, as at present—I have no hesitation in saying that this Regiment would soon become a most efficient Cavalry frontier force. The report was made by me to the Deputy Adjutant-General of the Military District No. 5.

In conclusion, I wish particularly to mention and record my thanks to Lieutenant and Adjutant Heward, who has been with me in the School from its commencement, and who has contributed much towards its success. To Lieutenant Lessard also, who has been but recently appointed, and performs the extra duties of Quartermaster, merit is due. I recommend that the Officer performing this additional work be allowed 50 cents additional pay per diem, similar to the Adjutant.

Sergeant-Major Baxter and Sergeant Instructor Dingley have ably performed their respective duties, and deserve great praise for their zeal and attention.

J. F. TURNBULL, Lieut.-Colonel,

Commandant School of Cavalry.

The Adjutant-General of Militia, Headquarters,
Ottawa.